

# An Analysis Illocutionary Act on the *Monster House* Movie

Abraham Ignatius H.\*

Universitas 17 Agustus 1945 Surabaya

[Abrahamignatius19@gmail.com](mailto:Abrahamignatius19@gmail.com)

**Abstract.** The purpose of this research is to analyze the types of illocutionary act in the *Monster House* movie. This study uses the speech act theory that focus on the illocutionary act by Searle theory (1979) – assertive, directive, declarative, expressive, and commissive. This study uses qualitative research by watching the movie, reading the script as a support of the movie, classifying the data, and analyzing the data to find the types and the meaning of illocutionary act, and the types of illocutionary act most frequently used in the *Monster House* movie that focuses to the linguistic theories derived from related literature sources. The writer finds 133 utterances of illocutionary acts used by characters of the *Monster House* movie. They consist of 37 Assertive utterances, 59 Directive utterances, 3 Declarative utterances, 32 Expressive utterances, and 2 Commissive utterances. The dominant type is directive that DJ commands his friends in many scenes where he seems to manage the situations when they are inspecting the haunted called *Monster House* that he accidentally is a leader among his friends.

**Keywords:** *Monster House, Illocutionary act, Searle's theory*

## INTRODUCTION

Language is a support system of the communication that performs a crucial position in daily life. Communication is normally the interplay between the speaker and the hearer that it is important in human existence to make connection among the human beings and give an explanation for facts, opinions, suggestions, signs, and so on. Buck states that communication has 2 types (2002). It is verbal and non-verbal communication. The element of verbal communication is the word and the element of non-verbal communication is gesture, eye contact, body movement, and many more. Communication has many forms. It is casual conversation, lectures, speech, doctor-patient consultation, news interviewers, etc. (Aulia, Garnida, 2014). Communication is an important thing because it contains people's information. It expresses their ideas as follows: requesting, ordering, asserting, promising, asking, and many more. Those expressions are called speech acts.

Communication in the speech act is also related to the utterance. This is a form of action consisting of words, phrases, or sentences. Utterance can be found in the written and verbal communication. It means that the speaker produces an utterance to help the speaker communicate and help the hearer understand the speaker's context clearly. In the speech act, Austin divided it into three parts. It is locutionary act, perlocutionary act, and illocutionary act.

Searle (1979) defines types of illocutionary act into 5 types such as assertive, directive, declarative, and expressive. The first category is assertive utterances focus on the fact that the purpose is to inform. The second category is directive. It focuses on the perform some act or refrain from performing an act. The third is declarative. It focuses in the state of affair they name. The fourth category is expressive utterance that focus to express the meaning by speaker or hearer. And the last category is commissive that focus on the commit of the speaker or hearer.

The reason the writer chooses this topic describes about the kid who named DJ that has curious about his neighbor, Nebbercracker. He feels oddity in the neighbor's house after he spies that house. DJ inspects the house with his friends and tries to destroy the house by hit the chimney as the heart. It is animation horror movie that written by Dan Harmon and Rob Schrab and related to the daily communication that focus on the utterance.

From the background of study, the writer concludes three statements of the Problem. First, what types of illocutionary act are applied in the *Monster house* movie, second what is

the meaning of illocutionary act applied in the Monster House movie, and the last, what types of illocutionary act most frequently used in the Monster House movie. The aims from statements of the problem are to identify the types of illocutionary act applied in the Monster House movie, to describe the utterance meaning of illocutionary act, and to describe the types of illocutionary act most frequently used in the Monster House movie.

## **PRAGMATIC**

Pragmatic is a linguistic branch that talk about the meaning. The pragmatic also connected in the communication of human language that the speaker uses the context in the utterance to make the goals to the other. Leech states that pragmatic is the study of the meaning in relation to speech situation (1983:5). It the understanding when the speaker uses the utterances in the context, it affects the hearer that the focuses of the hearer not only in the literal meaning but also in the oral meaning to make the assumptions of the speaker. The depicted of pragmatic talks about the framework and the form of a language that explain the conditional contexts related to listener, speaker, and surroundings.

## **SPEECH ACT CLASSIFICATION**

Speech acts is the movements produce the utterances or grammar to the listener. Austin states that speech acts are the movement that describe the speaker says something to perform the action or state things (1962). In the Searle theory, he describes the five classification of speech act in the illocutionary act such as assertive, directive, declarative, expressive, and commissive.

**Assertive Utterance** the point of the assertive is to commit the speaker to something's being the case, to the truth of the expressed proposition. All of the members of the assertive class can be assessment into true or false statement. The example in the assertive utterance cannot find in the Searle. So, the writer state from the journal article that the example is “The earth is flat” and “She is beautiful” (Hidayat, 2016)

**Directive Utterance** consists about the fact that they are attempts by the speaker conveys his/her utterances to get hearer to do something. The example from the Searle about directive utterance is I order you to leave. The verbs of this utterance are asks, order, command, request, beg, plead, pray, entreat, invite, permit, advise, dare, defy, challenge, etc. (Searle 1979: 13).

**Declarative Utterance** the point of the Declarative utterance is the action shows the correspondence between the propositional content and reality, successful; performance guarantees that the propositional content corresponds to the world. Searle state the example of declarative utterance. I successfully perform the act of appointing you chairman. From the utterance shows that the speaker conveys that s/he as a chairman (1979: 17).

**Expressive Utterance** the point of expressive utterance is to express the sincerity condition about a state of affair specified in the propositional content. The example of expressive by Searle is I apologize that I stepped on your toe, another example is “I congratulate you on winning the race” (Searle, 1979: 15)

**Commissive Utterance** is the speaker commit to something. The commissive utterance is “I promise to pay you the money”, “I pledge allegiance to the flag”, and “I vow you to get revenge” The verbs from this utterance are promise, pledge, vow, etc. (Searle, 1979: 22). The example of commissive utterance is “I promise to pay you the money”, and “I pledge allegiance to the flag”, and “I vow to get revenge” (Searle, 1979: 22).

## METHOD

This study applies qualitative research to find and describe the data and classify into a table. Qualitative research is plans and the procedures for research to detailed methods of data collection and analysis (Creswell, 2009). Research instrument is the instrument to collect the data in a study. Creswell states that researcher as key instrument to examine the documents, observe behavior, or interviewing participants (2007:164). The researcher conducts the documents from the movie and the script entitled "Monster House". The writer uses his skills and knowledge to elaborate the speech act by Searle in the monster house movie as a main point of the research and the script as a support to know the utterance by the movie. The data source is used by the researcher entitled *Monster House* movie written by Dan Harmon and Rob Schrab. The data source can be taken from the website. The movie about 1 hour 30 minutes. The data takes from the utterance in *Monster House* movie and the writer finds 133 utterances. The writer collects the data with 2 steps. First step, the writer downloads the movie entitle *Monster House* written by Dan Harmon and Rob Schrab in May, 7 2022. Then he watches the movie to understand the whole story. The second step, the writer selects the data and he classified it into the table based on the Searle classification. After classifying the data, he explains the meaning based on the Searle classification from his data. To analyze the data, the researcher uses descriptive technique. In the study, the utterances tend to Illocutionary act written in the specific term. The illocutionary act types such as assertive, directive, declarative, expressive, and commissive will be signed in the bold to show the differences among the other words.

## FINDING AND DISCUSSION

### Finding

From the *Monster House* movie, the writer finds 133 utterances of illocutionary act based on the Searle theory (1979) such as assertive, directive, declarative, expressive, and commissive. The writer also writes the data code to understand the reader how to read the data. For example, in the data assertive utterance, the writer writes Data-Ast-U-inf-1 that indicate data assertive utterance in the inform number 1. The write writes the table in the below.

No	Types of Illocutionary Act	Types of Data	Sum of Data	Total of Data
1.	Assertive	Inform (inf)	5	37 Data
		Tell (Tel)	29	
		State (Sta)	3	
2.	Directive	Command (Com)	40	59 Data
		Request (Req)	1	
		Ask (As)	12	
		Warn (War)	3	
		Beg (Be)	1	
		Suggest (Sug)	2	
3.	Declarative	Curse (Cur)	2	3 Data
		Declare (Dec)	1	
4.	Expressive	Apologize (Apl)	12	
		Thank (Thk)	4	

		Praise (Pra)	5	
		Regret (Re)	4	32 Data
		Like (Li)	3	
		Dislike (Dis)	4	
5.	Commissive	Promise (Pro)	2	2 Data

*Table of Data Illocutionary Act in the Monster House Movie*

## DISCUSSION

### Assertive Utterance

#### Inform

##### 1. Data Ast-U-Inf-1

DJ : "Mom, he did it again! **He took another bike!**"

DJ's Mom : "Now, honey. We talked about this. You can't stay up in your room all day staring at an old man through a telescope."

(04.34-04.44)

This dialogue takes place in the DJ's Garage at the morning that DJ and his parents want to go to Dental convention. After DJ spies his neighbor, he informs his mother about what he sees in his neighbor that he spies his neighbor takes the bike from the girl in the neighbor's lawn. But his mother did not believe about what DJ said. She dislikes the DJ's activities because he always standing in his room and spies on his neighbor. From bold utterance shows that is assertive utterance that the speaker tells the truth but in this case the hearer did not believe what the speaker says.

#### Tell

##### 2. Data Ast-U-Tel-7

Chowder : "Oh, speaking of which, have you decided? Skullzor or Crypt Keeper?"

DJ : "**Chowder. I don't think I'm going trick-or-treating this year.**"

(06.53-07.04)

This conversation takes place in the DJ's garage at the morning after DJ's parent leave him with Chowder. He always talks about Halloween to the DJ. Chowder wants to ask DJ about what costume he wear in the Halloween but DJ did not answer Chowder's questions and change the topic. The utterance that DJ says to the Chowder is assertive that tell DJ does not like go to the Halloween because he was grown up. The evidence shows in the scene that DJ's sound little bit changed.

### Directive Utterance

#### Command

##### 3. Data Dir-U-Com-13

Chowder : "Oh, no! a bottle."

DJ : "Chowder, **put that down!** Come back, please!"

Chowder : "bottle."

(24.58-25.03)

In this conversation happens in the night when DJ still behind in the tree and Chowder go to Nebbercracker's house with crawl as a soldier. The utterance that DJ said is directive to the Chowder. He commands him to put the bottle and Chowder do it and put it back, but still continuous crawl to the house. After he arrives, he mimics Mr. Nebbercracker to the DJ in few

minutes. He turns around and ring the bell of Nebbercracker's house, but the bell sound scary and make him afraid of. the verb in this scene is "put".

#### 4. Data Dir-U-Com-35

Jenny : "It's awake!"

DJ : "Run!"

(57.48-57.51)

This conversation takes place in the evening at Nebbercracker's basement, the kids check it and found the named of Constance. The kids find the Constance that she was buried in cement. Accidently DJ was stumbled up and his nose touch the woman named Constance and the house wake up. The utterance that DJ said is directive to Chowder and Jenny. He commands him to run from Nebbercracker's basement. they hear and run from it. the verb that DJ run is run.

#### Ask

#### 5. Data Dir-U-As-3

Zee : "Who called you?"

DJ : "Nebbercracker. P.S., he died today."

Bones : "You lie."

(16.57-17.02)

This conversation happens in the night at the DJ's room. DJ, Zee, and Bones talks about something that DJ gets called by his neighbor. In the utterance of Zee, she said directive to the DJ that she wants to the hearer to do something that she wants to DJ explains what he talks about.

#### Warn

#### 6. Data Dir-U-War-1

DJ : "Okay. Let's move. We need to move quickly and quietly.

**Don't touch anything.** And stay together— Aah!"

Jenny : "DJ!"

Chowder : "Wait! DJ!"

(54.48-55.07)

This conversation takes place in the Nebbercracker's house in the Living room at the night after the DJ and his friends swallow by the house. They inspect the house and accidently Chowder drop something. The house wakes up and check it with the windows. The kids shock and hide after the shadow of the window disappeared. They inspect again and the utterance that DJ said is directive to warn all his friends but the fall down with his friends.

#### Declarative Utterance

#### Declare

#### 7. Data Dec-U-Dcl-1

Zee : "Now, listen up. **I control the TV, the stereo and the phone. I don't do board games, Shrinky Dinks or tuck-ins. I'm not your mother, I'm not your friend.**"

DJ : "Don't talk to me like I'm a baby, okay? I am practically a grownup. I don't even need you here, Elizabeth."

### **(13.03-13.18)**

From that conversation above, happens in the afternoon at the DJ's house at the stair that DJ and Zee argue about DJ did not need babysitter. From the utterance that Zee said is Declarative. She declares her statement to DJ's house. She as babysitter has a control to DJ.

### **Curse**

#### **8. Data Dec-U-Cur-2**

Nebbercracker : **"You wanna be a dead person!?"**

DJ : "No, I love life!"

#### **(09.45-09.47)**

In this conversation takes place in the evening at the Nebbercracker lawn. He chases DJ and warn him. The utterance that Mr. Nebbercracker said to the DJ is Declarative. The explicit meaning from the utterance of Mr. Nebbercracker is he curse DJ to get off his lawn. If DJ do not go from the lawn, he will kill him.

### **Expressive Utterance**

#### **Apologize**

#### **9. Data Exp-U-Apl-12**

Nebbercracker : "Oh, my dear. Good bye."

DJ : **"I'm... sorry, Mr. Nebbercracker, about your house... and your wife.....your housewife."**

#### **(1.17.30-1.18.17)**

This conversation takes place in the danger zone at the night that Nebbercracker, DJ, and his friends have finished destroy the house. The soul of Nebbercracker's wife appear from the house and dance with Mr. Nebbercracker. The utterance that DJ says to Mr. Nebbercracker is expressive that he expresses his sorry because he destroys the house by dynamite.

### **Regret**

#### **10. Data Exp-U-Re-1**

Jenny : "Yes."

Chowder : "Trick or treat."

DJ : "Plug it in. **So close.**"

#### **(45.26-46.20)**

After the kids makes the dummy doll, they want to lure the house to make the house sleeping. This conversation takes place in the way of Nebbercracker's house in the evening. DJ, Chowder, and Jenny do their plan they use trash can and make a dummy doll with the drugs from the drugstore and bring by Chowder. The police's car come to the kids and accidentally the wires was uprooted. In this utterance, DJ and his friends shows their express and disappointed about it because their plan is unsuccessful.

### **Thank**

#### **11. Data Exp-U-Thk-1**

Chowder : **"I'll never forget this.** Hurry, though."

DJ : "Go"

#### **(08.52-09.00)**

This conversation happens in the morning to the street to Nebbercracker's house after DJ think because he saw him before in his telescope, but he is so doubtful. So, he steps up in the Nebbercracker's lawn and wants to take the Chowder's ball back. The utterance that Chowder says is expressive. He explicitly says thank to the DJ because he wants to help him.

### **Commissive Utterance**

#### **12. Data Com-U-Pro-1**

Chowder : "So?"

DJ : "So maybe he's sleeping. **All right I'll do it.**"

**(08.44-08.50)**

This conversation takes place in the morning at the DJ's garage that DJ and Chowder play basketball. They look for it and bounce into Nebbercracker's house. They go on there, then Chowder set his face and cries to the DJ, His friend, DJ wants to helps Chowder to take his ball. The utterance that DJ says is commissive. His statements shows that he promises to take the ball back into Chowder.

### **The most types of illocutionary act frequently used in the *Monster House* Movie.**

From the finding and analyzing the data, the writer finds the types of illocutionary act based on the Searle theory such as assertive, directive, declarative, expressive, and commissive. He also analysis the meaning of the illocutionary act that applied in the *Monster House* movie. The most illocutionary act that used in the *Monster House* movie is directive in the command. The directive in the command also appears in the *Monster House* movie in the DJ's character. He is very curious about his neighbor named Nebbercracker because he sees all the neighbor do that DJ feels that he hides something. DJ finds out the answer and investigate with his friend, Chowder and Jenny. In the part of the whole story, DJ always uses directive utterance to command his friends because he accidentally become a leader among his friends. The moment of command can be finds in the inside of Nebbercracker's house and Danger Zone.

### **CONCLUSION**

After analyzing the data, it can be concluded that the illocutionary act such as assertive, directive, declarative, expressive, and commissive in the *Monster House* movie. In his research, he finds 133 utterances. The writer also draws the tables after analyze the data. There are 37 data for assertive utterance, 59 data for directive utterance, 3 data for declarative utterance, 32 data of expressive utterance, and 2 data of commissive utterance. The most of the data can be found in the directive utterance of the command that the sum is 40 data. The command is the most data in this research because DJ's accidentally as a leader among his friends to inspect the Nebbercracker's house. The utterance that DJ used in the Nebbercracker house and Danger Zone The writer writes the study to focus on the speech act but limited in the illocutionary act to shows the utterance in the movie based on the Searle theory to explore what the meaning of the utterance.

## REFERENCES

- Aulia, Riskha F. and Susie Crismalia Garnida. (2014). A Study of Exchange Structures in Metro TV's 'After Hours' Program. *Parafrese: Jurnal Kajian Kebahasaan & Kesastraan*, 79-91.
- Austin, J. L. (1962). *How to Do Things with Words*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Buck, R. a. (2002). Verbal and Nonverbal Communication: Distinguishing symbolic, Spontaneous, and Pseudospontaneous Nonverbal Behavior. *Journal of Communication*, 522-541.
- Cresswell, J. W. (2009). *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approches third edition*. Los Angeles: Sage Publication.
- Creswell, J. W. (2013). *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Method Approches*. Los Angeles: SAGE Publication.
- Entertainment, S. P. (n.d.). *Fandom*. Retrieved 05 07, 2022, from Fandom: [https://sony.fandom.com/wiki/Monster\\_House/Transcript](https://sony.fandom.com/wiki/Monster_House/Transcript)
- Fshare TV. (n.d.). Retrieved 05 07, 2022, from Fshare TV: [https://fsharedtv.co/watch/\\_uid19062022-monster-house-episode-1-tt0385880](https://fsharedtv.co/watch/_uid19062022-monster-house-episode-1-tt0385880)
- Hidayat, A. (2016). Speech Act: Force Behind Words. *English Education: Jurnal Tadris Bahasa Inggris*, 1-12.
- Leech, G. (1983). *The Pragmatics of Politeness*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Searle, J. R. (1979). *Expression and Meaning: Studies in the Theory of Speech Acts*. USA: Cambridge University Press.